



January 13, 2009

The Honorable Joe Lieberman, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
United States Senate
Room 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
United States Senate
344 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our nearly 4000 members of the United States Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Governor Janet Napolitano as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Governor Napolitano was selected by Time Magazine as one of America's Top Five Governors, and her position as leader of Arizona makes her uniquely sensitive to the importance of protecting our nation's borders.

Her background in law enforcement – both as a former U.S. Attorney and as a former Attorney General for Arizona – provides her with the tools to understand the importance of the primary mission of DHS – preventing the next terrorist attack aimed at our nation, as well as securing our nation's borders.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, as a leader of State government, Governor Napolitano has a practical understanding of the need for a close working relationship between federal, state and local government partners.

Given the importance of the mission of the Department of Homeland Security we urge a speedy confirmation of Governor Napolitano and very much look forward to working with her.

Sincerely,

Russ Decker, CEM
President
IAEM-USA President